

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. 1. An authentication method comprising the steps of:  
2. generating a first security context in response to a first user authentication;  
3. generating a second security context in response to a second user authentication,  
4. wherein said second security context aggregates said first security context and a security  
5. context corresponding to an identity in said second user authentication.
  
1. 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of saving said first security  
2. context.
  
1. 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of saving said first security context  
2. comprises the step of pushing said first security context on a stack.
  
1. 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving a user logoff.
  
1. 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of destroying said second  
2. security context in response to said step of receiving said user logoff.
  
1. 6. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of reverting to said first  
2. security context in response to a user logoff.
  
1. 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said step of reverting to said first security context

2 comprises the step of popping said first security context off of a stack.

1       8.     The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining an access  
2       permission in response to said second security context.

1        9. A computer program product embodied in a tangible storage medium, the  
2 program product comprising a program of instructions for performing the method steps  
3 of:

4            generating a first security context in response to a first user authentication;  
5            generating a second security context in response to a second user authentication,  
6 wherein said second security context aggregates said first security context and a security  
7 context corresponding to an identity in said second user authentication.

1        10. The program product of claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of saving said first security context.

1        11. The program product of claim 10 wherein said step of saving said first security  
2 context comprises the step of pushing said first security context on a stack.

1        12. The program product of claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of receiving a user logoff.

1        13. The program product of claim 12 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of destroying said second security context in response to said step of receiving  
3 said user logoff.

1        14. The program product of claim 10 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of reverting to said first security context in response to a user logoff.

1        15. The program product of claim 14 wherein said step of reverting to said first  
2        security context comprises the step of popping said first security context off of a stack.

1        16. The program product of claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing  
2        the step of determining an access permission in response to said second security context.

1        17. A data processing system comprising:  
2                circuitry operable for generating a first security context in response to a first user  
3                authentication;  
4                circuitry operable for generating a second security context in response to a second user  
5                authentication, wherein said second security context aggregates said first security  
6                context and a security context corresponding to an identity in said second user  
7                authentication.

1        18. The system of claim 17 further comprising circuitry operable for saving said first  
2                security context.

1        19. The system of claim 18 wherein said circuitry operable for saving said first  
2                security context comprises the step of pushing said first security context on a stack.

1        20. The system of claim 17 further comprising circuitry operable for receiving a user  
2                logoff.

1        21. The system of claim 20 further comprising circuitry operable for destroying said  
2                second security context in response to said step of receiving said user logoff.

1        22. The system of claim 18 further comprising circuitry operable for reverting to said  
2                first security context in response to a user logoff.

- 1        23. The system of claim 22 wherein said circuitry operable for reverting to said first
- 2        security context comprises circuitry operable for popping said first security context off
- 3        of a stack.
  
- 1        24. The system of claim 17 further comprising circuitry operable for determining
- 2        an access permission in response to said second security context.